

Appl. No. 10/058,540
Amdt. dated January 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 46 (Canceled)

Claim 47 (Previously presented): A suction catheter system for suctioning secretions from a patient comprising; a connector having an inner air passage with frontal and rearward ends and the connector configured for delivery of ventilator air to and from a patient, a catheter isolator seal disposed at the rearward end of the connector inner air passage, a catheter cleaning chamber including a catheter cleaning flush port located in front of the catheter isolator seal, the isolator seal normally biased to a closed position; a suction catheter assembly associated with both the catheter isolator seal and the catheter cleaning chamber, a catheter assembly having a catheter with a distal tip and a proximal end, said catheter advanceable and retractable through the catheter isolator seal, the catheter isolator seal operable to an open position solely by direct contact and manual advancement of the distal tip of the catheter with the isolator seal.

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Claim 48 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the isolator seal is normally biased to a sealed position to substantially prevent the loss of ventilator air out the seal.

Claim 49 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the cleaning chamber includes a catheter wiper.

Claim 50 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter isolator seal is a resiliently molded component.

Claim 51 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 including a catheter isolation tunnel located behind the catheter isolator seal.

Claim 52 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter assembly is fixedly attached to both the catheter isolator seal and the catheter cleaning chamber.

Claim 53 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter assembly is disconnectable from the catheter isolator seal and the catheter cleaning chamber.

Claim 54 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter cleaning flush port permits the instillation of fluid.

Claim 55 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter cleaning port includes a one-way valve.

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Claim 56 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter isolator seal has a slit opening normally biased to a closed position.

Claim 57 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter is enclosed in a collapsible sleeve.

Claim 58 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter is connectable to a source of suction.

Claim 59 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 47 wherein the catheter is attached to a suction control valve.

Claim 60 (Previously presented): A suction catheter system for suctioning secretions from a patient comprising; a connector having front and rear ends and configured for delivery of ventilator air to and from a patient, a catheter isolator wiper seal disposed at the rear end of the connector, a catheter cleaning chamber including a catheter cleaning flush port located in front of the catheter isolator wiper seal, the catheter isolator wiper seal normally biased to a closed position, a suction catheter assembly operably associated with both the catheter isolator wiper seal and the catheter cleaning chamber, said suction catheter assembly having a catheter with a distal tip, said catheter advanceable and retractable through the catheter isolator wiper seal, the catheter isolator

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wiper seal operable to an open position solely by direct contact and manual advancement of the distal tip of the catheter with the catheter wiper seal.

Claim 61 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 60 wherein a catheter isolation tunnel is positioned behind the catheter isolator wiper seal.

Claim 62 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 60 wherein the suction catheter system is a closed tracheal suction system.

Claim 63 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 60 wherein the catheter isolator seal and the catheter wiper function as one component.

Claim 64 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 60 wherein the catheter isolator seal and the catheter wiper function as separate components.

Claim 65 (Previously presented): The system of Claim 64 wherein the catheter wiper is positioned in front of the catheter isolator seal.

Claim 66 (Previously presented): A suction catheter system for removing secretions from a patient's airway comprising; a catheter assembly including an isolation tunnel and having a catheter with a distal tip and proximal end, the distal tip normally positioned within said isolation tunnel and the proximal end of the catheter connectable to an applied suction source, a catheter isolator wiper seal located in front of the catheter isolation tunnel and a catheter cleaning chamber including a catheter cleaning flush port located in front of the

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catheter isolator wiper seal, a connector for delivery of ventilator air to and from a patient located in front of the catheter cleaning chamber and catheter cleaning flush port, the catheter distal tip advanceable and retractable into a patient's airway through the catheter isolator wiper seal from its normal position within the isolation tunnel, where the catheter is wiped of secretions upon retraction back through the catheter isolator wiper seal and said secretions accumulate in the catheter cleaning chamber located in front of the catheter isolator wiper seal, and wherein said accumulated secretions are removed from the catheter cleaning chamber by the instillation of catheter flush fluid through the port and into the catheter cleaning chamber during the application of suction through the catheter when the catheter tip is positioned within the catheter cleaning chamber.